

GARDNER – SO. WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT #73

BOARD BRIEFS

Highlights of the Regular Meeting

MARCH 20, 2025

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Mike Dinelli, parent of a GSW student, was present to discuss the GSW/Dwight co-op with sports. He spoke very highly of the golf program and head golf coach, Mr. Joe Bloxam. He asked our administration and board to please think about all sports and teams when looking for another local area school with which our boys could co-op football. Anthony Dinelli, brother of a GSW student, also spoke to the board about the connections and benefits of the golf co-op with Dwight High School.

Other public guests present at the meeting tonight: Mrs. Ellie Wilkey

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Mr. Brian Davis, Principal, reported on:

- Students of the Month for March – Jarrek Hirsch & Patrick Phillips
- GAVC Director's Award for Welding II – Logan Conger
- RVC Leadership Conference at Kankakee Community College on Friday, Feb. 21st – we took two students from 9th grade, 10th grade, and 11th grade to represent GSW – Freshmen: Lilly Scheuber & Blake Brassard, Sophomores: Abby Galass & Grace Vitko and Juniors: Maddie Simms & Roman Faletti.
- State Wrestling – Feb. 21 & 22 = Gavin Bafia represented GSW with the Dwight Wrestling team.
- Math Regionals – Feb. 22nd – GSW Math Regional Champs.
- Teacher Evaluations are complete – 46 total
- Our three new hires this year will be re-hired for next school year – Justin Wharrie, Samantha Johnson, and Tyler Miller
- Project Lead The Way Conference—On March 4th, Mr. Davis, Mrs. Avery, and Danielle Diamond attended this conference at Yorkville High School for an overview of this new program. Ms. Diamond will teach PLTW classes at GSW next school year.
- The GSW Student Handbook Committee met on March 6th and approved all changes for the next school year, as presented.
- Sports Handbook Meeting was held to finalize the combined book for the next school year.
- Sports Boosters Meeting – Mr. Davis met with the committee to discuss fundraising, funding for sports teams, etc
- RVC Honor Band Festival at Clifton-Central was held on March 11 – Mr. Leone, Band Director, took several of our GSW band students to participate.
- Principal's RVC Meeting – held on March 20th – to discuss the RVC Scholar Athletes of the Year. Cole Hampson and Kendall Huston are the GSW representatives. One boy and one girl winner for the year will be announced at the RVC Scholar-Athlete Banquet on April 30th.
- Dual Credit Courses – GSW will offer 5 or 6 total for the next school year.
- Spring Break is March 24 through 28. Students will return on Monday, March 31st
- The Prom is Saturday, April 12

DIRECTORS' REPORTS: Mrs. Chris Ruddy presented the following:

- ACT / SAT testing – Test scores from the past 5-years were reviewed. GSW's math path was looked at, and changes might need to be made moving forward to align with testing. This year, Juniors will be taking the ACT on April 25th. Freshmen and Sophomores will also be taking pre-test versions of the ACT on April 25th.
- Graduation Rate Errors and Explanation—We found two clerical errors in the online state report. Out of the forty graduates, it stated five students did not graduate, but there were two errors. Those were looked

at and are being corrected. When school starts in August, we will have a meeting to discuss this particular report and review it at that time. Additionally, students who are homeschooled will always count against all school's graduation rates, and students with IEPs will be able to attend school up until they turn 21, so it is outside of the four-year cohort. All of those items affect the overall graduation rate. Therefore, once the errors are corrected in the State Student Information System, our adjusted graduation rate is approximately 6% higher than reported on the Illinois State Report Card.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT: Mrs. Sue Avery discussed the following:

- Plumbing issue – Mr. Walter Debelak has been working on the pipe issue and made repairs. The PVC support ends broke off, causing issues in both the boys' first floor restroom and the employee restroom on the first floor. The PVC pipe is at least 10 years old.
- The Building and Grounds Committee met tonight, Thursday, March 20th, at 3:30 PM to discuss upcoming summer projects.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: Mrs. Avery presented on the following:

- Adding one night-time custodian to the staff to help our two existing employees. Currently, we have one full-time custodian working 40 hours per week and one part-time custodian working 20 hours per week. We would like to add another part-time custodian, working 12 hours per week.
- Graduation ceremonies held here at GSW High School in our gymnasium:
 - South Wilmington Elementary School – May 15 at 6:00 pm
 - Braceville Elementary School – May 16 at 7:00 pm
 - GSW High School – May 18 at 12 noon
- Health Life Safety—ROE and Fire Marshall were at GSW High School to do their annual walk-through of our building. They checked off several issues from last year's list and added a few more this year. Mrs. Avery sent an action plan to the ROE regarding this list and how it will be fixed/corrected.
- GAVC Health Life Safety Schedule—Morris, Coal City, Minooka, and GSW were given a payment schedule for repairs needed at GAVC. Each school will need to pay a portion of the overall cost for repairs, updates, and renovation projects at the GAVC Morris building.
- Tree trimming—We need to trim the trees on the west side of our student parking lot to 20 feet. Wally Debelak has gotten bids from a few tree trimming businesses. We will approve this at next month's meeting.

BOE MEMBERS REPORTS:

None at this time.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Approve the hiring of a Physical Education / Health Teacher for the FY26 School Year – Steven Kenyon
- Approve the 2025 GSW graduation for May 18 at 12:00 pm inside the GSW gym
- Approve the 2025 BES graduation for May 16 at 7 pm inside the GSW gym
- Approve the 2025 SWGS graduation for May 15 at 6 pm inside the GSW gym
- Approve the hiring of the temporary summer building crew leader – Mr. Adam Leigh
- Approve the hiring of summer workers – 2 workers to be hired.
- Approve the Director of Academic and Student Services Contract – Mrs. Christine Ruddy, 3-year Administrator Contract 2026-2028.
- Approve the Common Goal Financial Software Package
- Approve the Handbook Changes, as presented
- Accept the resignation of Assistant Softball Coach – Ms. Katelyn Farris
- Approve Assistant Softball Coach – Matt Finn
- Approve volunteers for softball practice - TABELD
- Approve Construction Company Project Manager – Narvick Brothers

OTHERS:

Mrs. Ellie Monferdini-Wilkey discussed the renovations being made to Minooka High School for welding and culinary, as well as the new addition to the auto shop program. Minooka wants to become a Career Center like GAVC and offer certifications in addition to its existing Career and Technical Education class offerings.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

President: Katy Wepprecht

Vice-President: Kori Speed

Kristen Ashley, Tim Harvey, Terry Schultz,

David Simms & Allison Wright

Principal: Mr. Brian Davis

Superintendent: Mrs. Susan Avery